



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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**4 VAC 10-30 – State Forest Regulations**  
**Department of Forestry**  
December 15, 2010

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Department of Forestry proposes to allow the holders of concealed weapons permits to carry their concealed handguns in state forests and to also allow open carry of weapons that are lawfully allowed to be carried openly outside of state forests.

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for this proposed change.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Current state forestry regulations prohibit any individual from bringing any explosives or firearms into state forests. The department proposes to amend this prohibition so that it does not apply to lawfully possessed firearms and ammunition. This change will allow both concealed carrying of firearms, by those who possess a concealed carry permit, and open carry for anyone in lawful possession of a firearm

This change will allow individuals to have the protection of a weapon in state forests which will likely provide a benefit for them as well as any other unarmed citizens that might receive ancillary protection from crime or animal attack. It is very unlikely that any individual would suffer costs from increased crimes on account of this change because concealed carry holders appear to commit far fewer crimes than individuals that don't hold concealed carry permits.<sup>1</sup> There appear to be no studies that attempt to measure any negative impact of open

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<sup>1</sup> David Kopel of Stanford University's Hoover Institute writes, in an overview of research on concealed carry permit holders and crime, that "In Florida... permit holders are about 300 times less likely to perpetrate a gun crime than Floridians without permits". <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/3574822.html>

carry on unarmed individuals but anecdotal evidence suggests that such impact would be minimal to nonexistent.

### **Businesses and Entities Affected**

This proposed regulatory change will affect all individuals who visit, or travel in, state forests.

### **Localities Particularly Affected**

No locality will be particularly affected by this proposed regulatory action.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

This regulatory action will likely have no impact on employment in the Commonwealth.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

### **Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects**

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

### **Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact**

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

### **Real Estate Development Costs**

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

### **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or

other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.